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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE

(for the period 22 May 1993 to 22 November 1993)

Introduction

1. The present report gives an account of the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in pursuance of the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council in resolution 350 (1974) and extended by subsequent resolutions, most recently by resolution 830 (1993) of 26 May 1993.

Organization of the Force

2. As of November 1993, the composition of UNDOF was as follows:

Austria	455
Canada	206
Finland	356
Poland	93
	1 110
United Nations Military Observers (detailed from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO))	5
Total	1 115

In addition to the above, UNDOF was assisted by 85 UNTSO military observers assigned to the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission.

3. Major-General Roman Misztal of Poland continued as Force Commander.

4. UNDOF is deployed within, and close to, the area of separation (see attached map) with base camps and logistic units located nearby. Most of the military component of UNDOF headquarters is in Camp Faouar and some elements are in Camp Ziouani. The civilian administrative staff is in Damascus. The Force Commander maintains offices both in Camp Faouar and in Damascus.

5. The Austrian battalion is deployed in the northern part of UNDOF's area of operation. At present, it maintains 16 positions and 9 outposts and conducts 26 patrols daily. Its base is in Camp Faouar. The Finnish battalion is deployed in the southern part of the area. At present, it maintains 14 positions and 8 outposts and conducts 19 patrols daily. Its base is in Camp Ziouani.

6. At the beginning of August, I informed the Security Council that the Finnish infantry battalion would be replaced by a Polish unit and that logistic support for the Force would be consolidated in the hands of the Canadian logistic unit (see S/26225 and S/26226). In this connection, the Canadian logistic unit was reinforced on 1 October 1993 by 26 men. In addition to its previous functions, it now performs second-line general transport tasks, ration transport, control and management of goods received by UNDOF and maintenance of heavy equipment. For this reason, part of the unit was deployed to Camp Faouar. The Polish logistic unit ceased to function on 1 October 1993, leaving behind a team of 25 for handover and preparations for the arrival of the Polish infantry battalion, whose advance party arrived on 1 November 1993. The full unit is scheduled to replace the Finnish battalion by the middle of December.

7. The Military Police has detachments at Camp Ziouani, Camp Faouar and Checkpoint Charlie.

8. First-line logistic support is internal to the contingents and, in connection with the changes described above, has been extended to include transport of supplies to the positions. Second-line logistic support is provided by the Canadian logistic unit. Third-line support is provided through normal supply channels by the United Nations. Damascus international airport serves as UNDOF's airhead; Tel Aviv international airport is also used. The seaports of Latakia and Haifa are used for sea shipments. In-theatre air support is provided by UNTSO on request.

Activities of the Force

9. The functions and guidelines of UNDOF, as well as its tasks, were outlined in the Secretary-General's report of 27 November 1974. 1/ UNDOF continued, with the cooperation of the parties, to fulfil the tasks entrusted to it. To this end, the Force Commander and his staff maintained close contact with the military liaison staffs of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. Both sides continued to impose some restrictions on UNDOF's freedom of movement.

10. UNDOF continued to supervise the observance of the cease-fire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. The cease-fire was maintained and the operational situation in UNDOF's area of operation remained calm.

11. UNDOF supervised the area of separation to ensure that no military forces were deployed in it. 2/ This was effected by means of permanently manned positions and observation posts, and by foot and mobile patrols operating at irregular intervals on predetermined routes by day and by night. In addition, temporary outposts were established and additional patrols were conducted from time to time as necessary.

12. UNDOF conducted fortnightly inspections of armament and force levels in the areas of limitation. Liaison officers from the party concerned accompanied the inspection teams. As in the past, both sides restricted the movement of inspection teams, denying access to some of their positions.

13. Mines and other explosive devices still pose a threat to the members of the Force and to the inhabitants in the area of separation. During the period under review, 15 cluster bombs, 1 anti-tank mine and a quantity of small-arms ammunition were found and destroyed.

14. UNDOF assisted the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with facilities for mail and the passage of a total of 533 persons through the area of separation. Within the means available, medical treatment was provided to the local population on request.

Financial aspects

15. By its resolution 47/204 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly, inter alia, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNDOF at a rate not to exceed $3,034,000 gross ($2,953,000 net) per month for the period from 1 June to 30 November 1993 inclusive, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of six months authorized under its resolution 790 (1992). Appropriate financial provision will need to be made by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session in respect of periods after 30 November 1993, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of the Force beyond that date. Unpaid assessments to the UNDOF special account as at 31 October 1993 amounted to some $21.1 million.

Implementation of Security Council resolution 338 (1973)

16. In deciding in its resolution 830 (1993) of 26 May 1993 to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months, the Security Council also called upon the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) and requested the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of the period, a report on the developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution.

17. The search for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and, in particular, the efforts undertaken at various levels to implement Security Council resolution 338 (1973) were dealt with in my report on the situation in the Middle East, 3/ submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/82 A of 16 December 1991.

Observations

18. UNDOF, which was established in May 1974 to supervise the cease-fire called for by the Security Council and the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces of 31 May 1974, has continued to perform its functions effectively, with the cooperation of the parties. During the period under

review, the situation in the Israel-Syria sector has remained generally quiet and there has been no serious incident.

19. Despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the situation continues to be potentially dangerous and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached. I continue to hope that determined efforts will be made by all concerned to tackle the problem in all its aspects, with a view to arriving at a just and durable peace settlement, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 338 (1973).

20. In the prevailing circumstances, I consider the continued presence of UNDOF in the area to be essential. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months, until 31 May 1994. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel has also expressed its agreement.

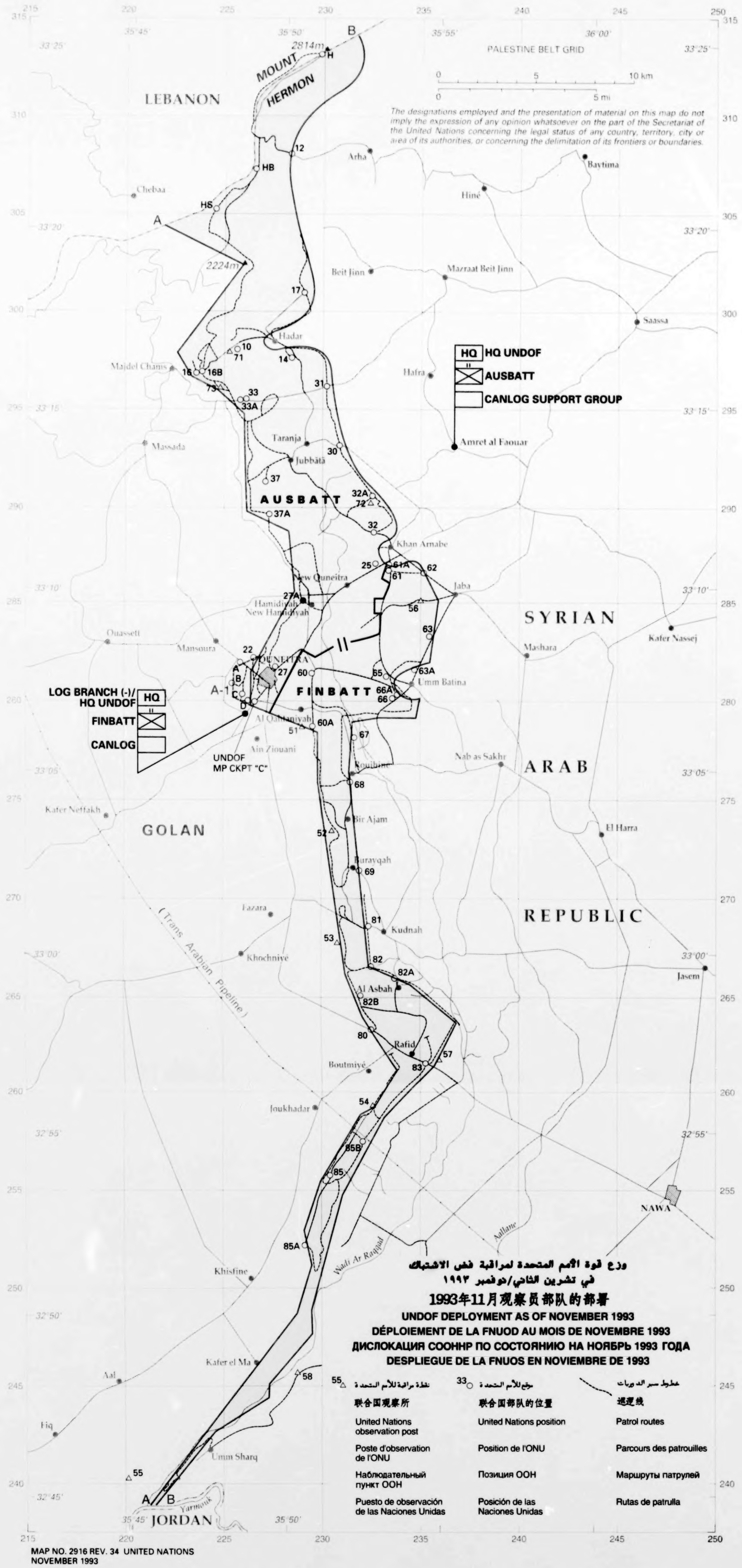
21. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops to UNDOF and to those that provide UNTSO with the military observers assigned to the Force. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Major-General Roman Misztal and to the men and women under his command. They have performed with efficiency and devotion to duty the important tasks assigned to them by the Security Council.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Security Council, Twenty-ninth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1974, document S/11563, paras. 8-10.

2/ Ibid, Supplement for April, May and June 1974, document S/11302 and Add.1 and 2.

3/ S/24819.



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